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United States Benate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

Executive Registry

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April 19, 1983

The Honorable William Casey Director Central Intelligence Agency Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Director Casey:

The Department of State, in its letter of transmittal accompanying its REPORT TO THE CONGRESS ON FORCED LABOR IN THE USSR, declares that forced labor is used "to produce large amounts of primary and manufactured goods for both domestic and Western export markets."

As you know, Section 1307 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (ch. 497, Stat. 689) prohibits the importation into the United States of "all goods, wares, articles, and merchandise mined, produced, or manufactured wholly or in part by convict labor or/and forced labor."

I wrote to the Customs Service, which is responsible for enforcing 19 USC 1307 to find out how it was being enforced with regard to products imported from the Soviet Union. I found out that it wasn't. Here's what Robert Schaffer, the Assistant Commissioner for Commercial Operations, wrote me: "The Soviet Union's closed economy and use of corrective labor as punishment imposed by court sentence make it unlikely that this Agency of the Treasury Department can develop conclusive evidence and gain access to fully corroborative information as to the use of forced labor, in whole or in part, in the manufacture, production or mining of the commodities or goods now being imported into the United States."

I also wrote Undersecretary Lionel Olmer at the Department of Commerce and asked if the Department knew which industries in the Soviet Union employ forced labor. He replied that he didn't.

I figure if any agency of the government knows the answer to my question, yours does. I would very much appreciate it if the CIA could provide me with a list of those industries in the Soviet Union which utilize forced labor.

Thanks in advance for your assistance.

Best regards.

Sincerely

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